

PEAK PERFORMANCE PROJECT

Overview

The Need:

Hoosiers should be able to access necessary state government programs quickly and easily. As well, state government must continue to evolve and change to ensure that it is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible. And, finally, because of the complicated structure of state government, there are agencies and programs that aren't directly accountable to the people of Indiana.

For all these reasons, Gov. Joe Kernan in his first State of the State address announced the Peak Performance Project and asked Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis to lead this effort, a top-to-bottom review of state government. He asked Davis and her team to ask the question: What would state government look like today if we were starting from scratch?

The reality is that as state government's role and responsibilities have evolved over the years, and changes to its structure have not always happened with efficiency, accountability and accessibility in mind. As a result of years of legislative and administrative actions, often Hoosiers are forced to work through several state agencies for needed services, rather than having one point of contact.

The Change:

Gov. Kernan and Lt. Gov. Davis have proposed a bold reorganization of state government that is aimed at achieving three goals:

- State government is more accountable – clear about what we do, who we do it for and how well;
- It is easy for Hoosiers to get the programs and services they need from state government; and,
- State government continues to find ways to cut waste and save taxpayers both time and money.

Each step in the Peak Performance plan is aimed at achieving one or more of these three goals through legislative or administrative action. Briefly, the plan includes:

- Moving from the current structure of 74 individual state and quasi-governmental agencies to a nine-member cabinet that reports directly to the governor. Result: Greater accountability and efficiency.
- Consolidating related programs to ensure that Hoosiers have a single point of contact or “one-stop shops” for the services they need, rather than having to access those services through several agencies. Result: Reduction of the number of state agencies by about one-third, better coordination of programs and services, and easier access for Hoosiers to the programs they need.
- Assessing all quasi-state agencies from an efficiency and accountability standpoint. Result: Ensure that these agencies that perform essential government functions are accountable to the governor and follow the same policies and rules as the rest of state government.
- Move to a common system for property tax assessment that is based at the county-level, rather than done through 1,100 different assessors. Result: Will better ensure consistency in the property assessment process, streamline the system and provide savings to taxpayers.

The Cost:

The reorganization of state government to the nine-cabinet structure will be done through the utilization of current resources and staffing, at no additional cost to the state.

Additionally, the consolidation and streamlining of some state programs and functions will create long-term cost savings for state government.

A study completed by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce predicted a savings of more than \$11 million statewide each year if property tax assessment was based at the county level.

Implementation:

The changes to the organization of state government will be done through a combination of both administrative and legislative actions.

The move to a county-based property tax assessment system will require legislative action.